



# News

Summer 2010

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## Congress Park Neighbors Gather at Annual Meeting

The March 17 date for the Congress Park Neighbors annual meeting connected CP residents to a warm early spring evening, elected officials, police officers and each other, over pizza and pop.

District 10 City Councilwoman and Denver City Council President Jeanne Robb gave a brief overview of the many projects that City Council is involved in, including:

- the Colfax Marathon—runners take their marks on May 16 and Jeanne is looking for volunteers to join her team, ranging from runners to water station staffers.
- a Central Denver Recreation Center—currently slated for the old Church in the City site at Josephine and 16th. While the site is awaiting renovation, it shouldn't be left derelict; a corner that visible in the heart of our neighborhood needs to perform a function and represent our community gracefully. What shall we have there in the interim? An indoor farmers market? Community gardens? A skateboard park?

Parking for Colfax businesses? A Tai Chi location? What would you like to see in that site until it becomes our new Rec Center?

- medical marijuana dispensaries—which need to be 1,000 feet from schools, child care centers and each other, and are

subject to a number of other regulations about how they operate in our neighborhoods.

Robb talked about other current issues such as the stalled redevelopment of the 8th and Colorado hospital property; big screen movies in Civic Center or City Park, and a streetcar on Colfax.

Call Jeanne's office at 303-377-1807 to volunteer for the Colfax marathon in any capacity or for more information about other issues.

District 8 Representative Beth McCann updated us about her work on our behalf regarding medical marijuana, renewable energy, women's health insurance, prisoner job training, and more.

Among other issues discussed at the annual meeting were the plans for a July 3 children's bike parade and art show on 12th avenue to be organized by Under the Umbrella owner Jyll ([umbrellabakery@yahoo.com](mailto:umbrellabakery@yahoo.com)); how to join a "mosaic" historic district and volunteer in Congress Park; volunteer opportunities with the neighborhood (both at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org)).

It's your neighborhood, too, and we're glad you're here. Become a member. Volunteer for a committee. Sign up for email blasts. Please join us in helping Congress Park continue to be the kind of place you want to live.

### *Congress Park's Vision (1995 Neighborhood Plan)*

*Congress Park is a traditional city neighborhood with a small-town atmosphere. Here, people of diverse cultures, ages, colors and economic backgrounds share a sense of community, value older homes and mature trees, and enjoy the convenience of city living amid the stability of a thriving neighborhood.*

Congress Park News is a quarterly publication of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. A network of volunteers produces and distributes it to a circulation of more than 4500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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Your articles, letters and advertisements are always welcome.

We need you to help produce and distribute the newsletter. If you can volunteer a few hours every quarter to help your neighbors get the news, please call Wendy or Julie.

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based ink by Barnum Printing, 303-936-2345.

## Does Your Home Have a Theme?

By Kathleen Hynes

Denver's Landmark Preservation Commission has a new tool for designating historic homes—Thematic Districts. A thematic district is one in which the properties share themes, trends, and patterns of history. This district is organized by a thematic context and property type. Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., is organizing information for neighbors who may want to participate in preserving their homes by utilizing Thematic Districts.

Historic Districts require every home to conform to pre-selected criteria and be contiguous. In contrast, Thematic Districts have no physical boundaries and comprise properties whose owners "opt-in" because they want to preserve their structures which are representative of a particular theme. The thematic context may reflect historic events, significant persons, architectural styles or characteristics to which the structures as a whole relate.

According to Planning and Development Senior Preservation Planner Savannah Jameson, the benefits of Thematic Districts include:

- Providing citizens with a means for recognizing and protecting unique historic resources scattered around the City

- Providing neighborhoods that have had significant redevelopment (pops and scrapes) with a means of protecting remaining historic resources even when a typical historic district is not appropriate.
- Providing neighborhoods that have significant political opposition to designation with a tool to protect deserving properties without creating a no-win situation at City Council.
- Minimizing the impact on Landmark Staff because only participating structures would require design review and there would be no non-participating properties in a thematic district.
- Reducing the potential for opposition because only structures belonging to homeowners who "opt in" would be listed in the designation.

Watch for email broadcasts about CPN's upcoming informational meetings on Thematic Districts within Congress Park.

---

## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2010 Board of Directors

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And we thank these committed neighbors:

Michael Sutherland and Bill DeMaio—Denver Botanic Gardens Liaison

Carolyn VanSciver—Congress Park Historic Preservation Committee  
303-377-4913

Lots of other neighbors help with communications, membership, and more, and generally make Congress Park a great place to live—you know who you are and how much we depend on you—Thanks!

Your Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open Board meetings at National Jewish Hospital on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Heitler Hall.

**Stephanie Lind** is a Congress Park resident who is enrolled in the Transit Alliance's Citizen Academy. As part of the curriculum, students are required undertake a project promoting transit in our neighborhood. No map of this information existed prior to Stephanie's project. For your benefit, this map is posted at congressparkneighbors.org. Thank you again, Stephanie. Hmmm... What talents can you bring to the neighborhood? We'd love to hear from you at [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org).

CPN Events On Web

Once again, CPN's wondrous webmaster Maggie has outdone herself. The neighborhood website now has an events calendar. Go to [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and look. If you have a CPN event that needs to be added in (block party? garage sale? alley clean up?), contact the webmaster or any CPN Board member at [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org). And you can find a list of Congress Park merchants on our website. Thank you, Maggie!



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### Your City Council Representatives

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## What Does Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. Do?

**B**elow is a list of activities undertaken or sponsored by Congress Park Neighbors volunteers. Without all of us who volunteer, Congress Park would be an invisible part of Metro Denver. Without our Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO), we have no recognized voice with the City when decisions are being made about our neighborhood.

During 2009, Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., your Registered Neighborhood Organization, has:

- sponsored neighborhood educational meetings on rezoning residential property
- helped interested homeowners put together rezoning applications
- worked with Councilwoman Robb on the new zoning for Congress Park
- assisted neighbors involved in liquor/cabaret license hearings with Excise and Licenses
- sponsored Congress Park Historic Speakers' Series
- represented Congress Park by participating in District 3 police meetings
- conducted a parking survey in selected areas of Congress Park
- maintained communications with & asked numerous questions of city officials and City Council representatives on behalf of CPN
- researched, organized & managed Neighbor-

- hood Assemblies on neighborhood issues
- hosted Annual Ice Cream Social and Annual meetings
- published, distributed and posted the Congress Park News, a 20-year-old communication vehicle and local business advertising medium
- enhanced the CPN website with interactive features including: crime maps, liquor licenses, on-line sign-up for email updates
- developed and distributed timely email broadcasts about issues impacting Congress Park
- supported annual Alley Clean-Up Drive & secured grant monies for future efforts
- represented CP to the Denver Botanic Garden Neighborhood Advisory Committee
- contributed to the city-wide Dollar Dictionary drive for elementary schools
- acted as liaison with Teller school
- maintained two neighborhood bulletin boards

### Update:

## Colorado Health Sciences Center

**H**ave you, too, been wondering what is happening at the former Colorado Health Sciences Center? According to Marcus Pachner, who works with Shea Development, The Colorado Boulevard Healthcare District (CBHD) continues to monitor the proposed redevelopment of the

former University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Shea has city-approved plans for a vibrant, mixed-use development with residential, retail and office for the thirty-plus-acre site.

However, neither a closing date nor development timeline is set. Shea continues to work with the University on these matters and the CBHD will host a meeting on the proposed project on June 3, 2010 at 4 p.m. in the Molly Blank Conference Room at National Jewish Hospital.

## New Spring Listings

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## Diary of a Third Grader

By Calum Abeywickrema, 3rd Grade, Teller Elementary School

**W**ell, the life of a third grader is boring, fun, miserable and, of course, exciting.

What's boring?

For the boring part, a brother who bosses you around most of the day. And school. School is boring. Writing (stupid old writing)—all the boring subjects—except sometimes you can have some fun with the teachers IF they're in a good mood. Not in a cranky, old, stinky mood.

What's fun?

Fun is recess and gym and of course, my friends Jacob, Bilal and Will. Jacob is my best friend. We both play violin. We both skateboard and we both have a bunch of fun. At recess we always play four-square. And we play US Army on the playground. We both run Mighty Miles on the field. We like gym with Miss Chris (our gym teacher). And my favorite is Miss Annie—she is my homeroom teacher.

Miss Fischer does a lot of fun things. Well, sometimes math might be a little hard, but you have to admit science is pretty cool because you get to do all the fun experiments. My brother is always working on a stupid science project.

What's miserable?

Your parents yelling at you to do your homework (even if you're already doing it) or you're playing around. In school you have to re-do all your papers—so miserable, right? And when your friends stop being your friends. That makes you feel bad.

What's exciting?

There are a lot of exciting things in my life! Like the first day of school, for instance. Me and Jacob brought skateboards to school and I had my first day of soccer practice. And I got my first Dunny of my whole life. (For a definition, ask a third-grader of your choice. —ed.)

And I got my room done so now I have a loft in my room. But I don't have to share it with anybody, so one day I sleep in the loft, one day down below. One day I sleep up, one day I sleep down. Like that.

Then you have to wake up, change and eat your boring old eggs.

And then one day I cut my knee open and started to gush blood—like a volcano of blood. I screamed so loud—and everybody ran out like there was a real emergency—and there was! Except one of neighbors wasn't there—she's a trauma nurse who flies in a helicopter. So I ended up in the emergency room for stitches.

Life is pretty good if you're in third grade! You have a bunch of friends, and school's pretty okay. And at night, you get in your warm pj's and bed. My brother's not too bad and when mom and dad aren't yelling they're pretty cool.

(We hope this is the first of a series. After a front steps discussion with Calum, we're guessing he has a lot to tell us. —ed.)



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## Congress Park Historic Speakers Series 2010

Lectures run May through October, with a talk given the last Wednesday of each month at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 PM, unless otherwise stated. Note the change of day, location, and time for the October research session at the public library. Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the hospital lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park web site at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org).

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The CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee presents the ninth season of the Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series.

Lecture topics are chosen to help the owners of old houses in the area learn how to better care for their fine "antique" homes and appreciate the history and architectural style of these homes. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Carolyn Van Sciver at 303-377-4913 or [cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net). We always need people to help flyer their block before a talk.

The 2010 schedule includes:

May 26, 2010. **Working With A Contractor.** What do you need to know to make that renovation project a positive experience for both you and the contractor who turns your dreams into reality? Martin Kajawa has been renovating Denver's old homes for 27 years. Learn about interviewing contractors, writing contracts and paying for work done — the in and outs of working with contractors.

June 30, 2010. **Choosing Paint Colors for your Historic house.** Megan Schlegel, the Color People, will guide you through the process of choosing a color scheme for your historic house. Her presentation, using photos of "the good, the bad, and the ugly" demonstrates how to avoid poor color choices for your home. Megan encourages attendees to bring a picture of their house to discuss possible solutions to their color dilemmas.

July 28, 2010. **Solar Power for Your Historic House.** Solar power can be seamlessly integrated into your home and still maintain its classic charm, while including modern technology. Jon Sullivan, from Simple Solar, will show 3 examples of solar systems on historic homes...including his own 1926 Denver Bungalow. Come learn if your home is appropriate and how you can benefit.

August 25, 2010. **Care and Maintenance of Stained or Leaded Glass Windows.** Stained or leaded glass windows were a very popular decorative element in turn-of-the-century homes in

Denver. Mike Delva, Denver Art Glass, will discuss the basics of maintaining the historic leaded glass windows in your home and answer questions about when and why to call for professional help.

September 29, 2010. **Arts and Crafts Interiors.** Most of Denver's old homes are built in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture.

Diane Gunson,  
*Continued  
on page 7*



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## Congress Park Historic Speakers Series 2010

*Continued from page 6*

ASID, NCIDQ accredited interior decorator, will show period details from Arts and Crafts interiors and give examples on how to update the colors and designs to retain that historic look. Bring your favorite colors and Diane will discuss possibilities for integrating them into the Arts & Crafts tradition.

Tuesday, October 26, 2010. **Researching the History of Your Old House.** Curious about your house's past? Learn how to research your history in this fun, hands-on session in the Western History Section of the Denver Public Library downtown. Librarian Bruce Hanson will walk you through the process of using the extensive research materials of the Western History Section. Meet at 6:30 p.m., 5th Floor, in the main branch at 13th and Broadway. Note the day (**Tuesday**), time and location change for this program only.

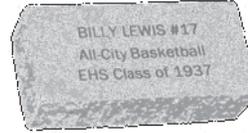
### East High to Renovate Entry Plaza This Summer

While still working towards its goal of \$250,000, Project Angel Pride (PAP) has raised sufficient funds to begin renovation of East High School's entry plaza this summer!

Principal John Youngquist announced, "With the help of our able volunteers, the East community and our many generous donors, we have met our Phase I funding goal and will proceed to build the 'Gateway to Learning.'" Over 650 donors, from alumni across the country to neighborhood residents, are participating in the project so far.

Don't miss the chance to have a commemorative brick or paver on the historic plaza! The engraved bricks are \$100. Larger stone pavers with a timeless quote, as well as your inscription, are \$1000 to \$25,000. PAP will continue to add engraved pavers and bricks to the plaza, offering a unique opportunity for the East community, neighborhood residents, organizations, and businesses, while providing an on-going revenue source for East High School.

For more information about the East High School entry plaza renovation, or to order a paver or brick, go to PAP's current project website at [www.ProjectAngelPride.org](http://www.ProjectAngelPride.org) or contact Susan Bardwell at 303-399-1155, [SusanBardwell@msn.com](mailto:SusanBardwell@msn.com).



Want to join CPN, Inc. but can't find your checkbook?

You're saved. The CPN, Inc. website now uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way. Visit [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and join today!

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## Our Neighborhood Forest: Trees You've Got to See!

By Susan Bardwell

### Japanese Tree Lilac

The Japanese Tree Lilac in front of 1025 Fillmore Street is a special tree to owners Larry Wysocki and Judith Spiegel, not just because it is the second largest one in Colorado. When they moved into the house in 1988, their neighbors to the south, elderly sisters Mildred Earhart and Lavinia Black knew the tree was at least 60 years old then. They recalled the original tree owner was an importer who brought the *Syringa reticulata* specimen from its native land, Japan.



Colorado's #2 Japanese Tree Lilac

Now towering over the second floor of their Denver Square, Larry and Judith's gnarled tree has hosted many a Mourning Dove and Robin nest. Even a bug-hunting Flammulated Owl has perched on its branches.



Leaves and flower (Flickr)

The large clusters of white, musky flowers attract elegant Tiger Swallowtails and ever-important bees.

An inch shy in trunk-diameter, and two feet shorter than the State Champion when last measured ten years ago, this very big "ornamental tree" also bears the subtler signs of many seasons. Snow periodically breaks the branches--what Larry calls "self-pruning"--possibly attributing to its narrow canopy, relative to the top-ranked tree.

Touted by national woody plant expert Michael Dirr, the Japanese Tree Lilac, typically grown as a very large shrub or small tree, is otherwise "possibly the most trouble-free lilac". When Larry and Judith xeriscaped their front yard soon after they moved in, their tree adapted well to the change. They nurture it with supplemental watering during dry spells and in the winter and occasionally fertilize and "topdress" with compost the tree's lawn-free front yard. Although Larry wishes the tree

wasn't planted so close to the house, his specimen on Fillmore demonstrates how the species' upright form and drought tolerance lends itself to growing well near buildings.

In 2009, a late frost nipped the early leaves and flower buds. The tree leafed out again, but like many other trees and shrubs last spring, it did not bloom. Larry says in a good year the fragrance may reach as far as the alley.

*"My lilac trees are old and tall;  
I cannot reach their bloom at all.  
They send their perfume over trees  
And roof and streets, to find the bees."*

-Lousie Driscoll,  
1875-1957

Do you know of a notable tree "we've got to see" in the neighborhood – a big one, a beautiful one, or just a favorite one – that we could feature in the newsletter?

Please contact Susan Bardwell at [SusanBardwell@msn.com](mailto:SusanBardwell@msn.com) or 303-399-1155.



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# TELLERPALOOZA 2010

## to Feature Musician Parents

By Allyson Mendenhall

The 7th Annual Tellerpalooza is set for Saturday, May 15, at Mercury Café in Denver. Proceeds from this night of local music and fun support Congress Park's Teller Elementary. Conceived in 2004 by music-loving Teller parents, TellerPalooza has grown into the school's biggest fundraiser.

A distinct theme is shaping up for this year's lineup—rocker parents. Four bands in the lineup are headed up by current or future Teller parents. Credit for the musician parent trend can be attributed to Tom Hagerman of DeVotchKa, parent of a Teller student when the band headlined TellerPalooza in 2007.

Early in the evening, the stage features Teller student bands. Later, students head home to babysitters; parents and fans stay into the night.

“Supporting our DPS schools while taking in an impressive lineup of bands is an unusual, but tantalizing, combination to many parents and local fans,” says Teller parent, Bryan Giese.

“Events like this bring so many benefits,” says Teller Elementary Principal, Jennifer Barton. “Our school and students receive money to help support special school programming such as music, art, P.E., library resources and Gifted and Talented; the funds also help to reduce student to teacher ratios.”

Teller Kindergarten teacher, Michelle Lang, who is one of the founders of Tellerpalooza and also the parent of two Teller grads, echoes, “It is a real community event, but with an edge. We are thrilled that despite their local and national acclaim, the bands are genuinely happy to support Teller and to serve as an inspiration to the kids.”

### Featured local Denver bands at Tellerpalooza 2010:

The Swayback – Bassist and lead vocalist, Eric Halborg, is a future Teller parent. [www.theswayback.com](http://www.theswayback.com)

Joy Subtraction – Lead guitarist, Abe Brennan, is a Teller parent. [www.myspace.com/joysubtraction](http://www.myspace.com/joysubtraction)

The New Distractions – Lori Trautwein, lead vocalist and keyboardist, is mom to three Teller students. [www.myspace.com/thenewdistractions](http://www.myspace.com/thenewdistractions)

What Happened Saturday – Lead singer, Justin Wedul, is a Teller parent. [www.reverbnation.com/whathappenedsaturday](http://www.reverbnation.com/whathappenedsaturday)

Mono Verde – Formed by musicians from Mexico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, United States and El Salvador. [www.myspace.com/monoverderoots](http://www.myspace.com/monoverderoots)

Roy Drabkin – Mixing soul and folk with a style all his own, Drabkin makes his music something to remember. <http://robdabkin.com>

Olivia Rudeen – Former lead singer of The Panic, a Denver-based alternative rock quartet. [www.myspace.com/oliviarudeen](http://www.myspace.com/oliviarudeen)

Dylan Yawger, a Teller Graduate, a one-man electronic hip-hop jam band

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Festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with a performance by Teller's own student band and last into the night with bands of local and national acclaim sharing the stage.

Tickets are available on Teller's web site ([www.teller.dpsk12.org](http://www.teller.dpsk12.org)). A family 4-pack is \$60; single tickets are \$18 each. All tickets will be sold for \$20 each at the door. Visit <http://www.tellerpalooza.com> or @tellerpalooza for all the details!

## Outsmarting Mother Nature

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Committee Chairperson

*"The Congress Park Crime Action Committee is committed to coordinate efforts to rid our neighborhood of crime, thus helping to ensure personal safety for all."*  
 CPN Crime Action Committee Mission Statement

Congress Park Neighbors is looking for a volunteer to attend the District 3 monthly crime meetings and report to the CPN board the details of those meetings. If you are willing to help, please send us an email at [cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org)

### Car Break-ins Up

District 3 police officers reminded us to avoid leaving our expensive toys in plain sight in our cars or houses. "Tuck 'em away and keep 'em for another day."

### Useful Numbers:

720-913-1300: District 3, 1625 S. University;  
 720-913-2000: report suspicious people or vehicles in the neighborhood  
 720-913-1178: report a potential crime; and  
 720-913-1175: Resource Officer Cari Jimenez

Governor Bill Ritter designated April 11-17, 2010, as Severe Weather Awareness Week. During this week the National Weather Service, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management and other groups promoted awareness of how to respond to severe weather events.

Severe weather in Colorado has many faces, from tornadoes, torrential rains, large and damaging hail and winds, to thunderstorms and lightning hazards. In 2009, 44 tornadoes were reported across the state; 700 reports were made of hail, serious winds and flash floods. In Colorado, lightning is the number one life-threatening weather hazard to contend with. Most victims are struck while playing golf or field sports, and while in or near water. The hail season in Colorado is typically March through October, with June having the highest frequency of storms producing hail. Flood-prone areas have been identified in all 64 counties in Colorado. If the rain falls fast and hard and the city drainage systems cannot handle the runoff, streets and low lying areas will fill up with water moving at incredible speeds, creating dangerous situations for pedestrians, traffic, and basements.

NOAA's weather service has over two dozen weather radio transmitters broadcasting forecasts and warning information regularly to the Emergency Alert System and to commercial radio and television stations. The National Weather Service has a website, <http://www.weather.gov>, with a U.S. map showing weather watches, warnings, and advisories. Before venturing out on a fun excursion within Colorado, or our surrounding states, check for forecasted serious weather conditions. In addition, remember the following rules for responding to severe weather conditions:

### Lightning:

- Avoid being the highest object in the area
- Stay away from water, which conducts electricity
- If lightning strikes close, drop to the ground in a crouched position, hands on knees. Do NOT lie flat on the ground. If struck by lightning, see a physician
- In a building avoid using the land line telephone, unplug unnecessary appliances and avoid windows

### Hail: If in an automobile –

- Drive swiftly to a covered place like inside a garage, under a highway overpass, or under a service station awning
- Do not leave the vehicle until the hail stops. Your car will furnish reasonable protection
- Using trees for shelter is a last resort – branches could fall and isolated trees attract lightning

### Flooding:

- Know your neighborhood flood history
- Consider purchasing flood insurance
- Do not attempt to cross water that is above your knees
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road
- Abandon a stalled vehicle and immediately move to higher ground
- Get out of areas subject to flooding when it is raining or hailing, such as low spots, lowlands, and culverts, as well as canyons (remembering that canyons were formed by water), and areas downstream from dams.

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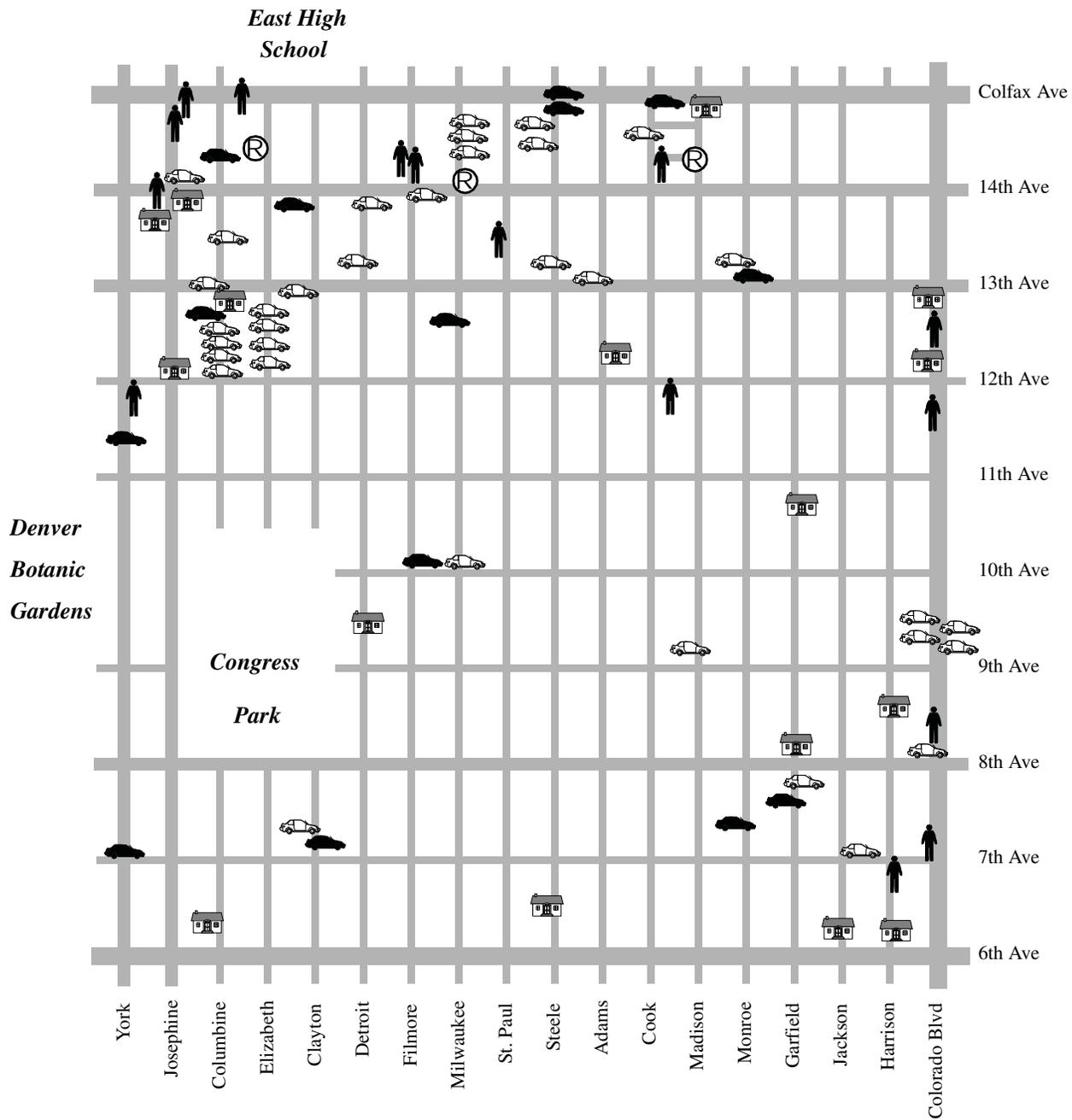
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# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JANUARY - MARCH, 2010



-  **Sexual Assault**
-  **Assault/robbery**
-  **Burglary**
-  **Auto Theft**
-  **Theft from auto**

This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the first quarter of 2010. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.



### Looking East

By Jess Lindimore

Jess Lindimore is in her sophomore year at East High and offering a Congress Park highschooler's perspective to the Congress Park News.

Sports aren't just a big deal at East High school they're practically a way of life. The East High school athletes are among some of the most dedicated and talented in the district if not the state. What about club sports? Most people don't associate club sports with extreme competitiveness or serious athleticism but like most things at East the rule does not apply. East High school has an astonishing and highly competitive rugby team, and although they are not technically an East sport they surpass many sports on levels of dedication, talent, and over all awesomeness.

My younger brother (Dylan Lindimore) made an interesting decision this year that both excited my father and absolutely terrified my mother. He joined the rugby team. My brother has always been an avid soccer player and hasn't ever had any other interest in a sport besides soccer, until befriending a couple of guys who just so happened to be rugby players. Eventually they convinced him to join the team, but having never played before, and the fact that it is an extreme contact sport (it's like football but without pads) my parents and I were skeptical. To our surprise he took to the sport like a greyhound to a racetrack, the sport became something that is now the center of his identity and something he loves doing. Joining the rugby team gave my younger brother a wonderful experience. It gave him a sense that he was a big part of the school but his character has been greatly built since joining the team.

Rugby is a fabulous part of East because not only do they help train athletes but they also emphasize respect for themselves and people around them. If you meet an East rugby boy you will be impressed with his school spirit, his dedication as an athlete and his respect for himself and others. From day one the coaches emphasize taking responsibility for your own actions by enforcing rules such as having to inform coaches of planned absences in person. They also have regular team work outs, dinners and study halls that help build the team as a whole. This helps to create a spectacular athlete and person. There isn't one boy on the team that isn't respectful and dedicated. Rugby is a gentleman's sport and East's rugby team is no exception.

Recently my brother took a trip with the rugby team to a tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah, he and my parents came back and said it was a trip they will never forget. In the tournament the boys played some of the highest ranked teams in the nation, and did very well considering the immense competition. My brother came back buzzing about the experience and my parents came back talking about how well the boys played and how responsible the boys are despite the level of competition. The rugby team is forever growing and always improving, something the players truly love and it shows. In fact a lot of alumni come back to watch games and support the team; some even help coach.

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*Continued on page 13*

## Surprises Come From Seeds

By Linda Smoke

One of the benefits of living in a broader community is you meet folks in more than one area of your life. I met two fellow community gardeners in the Teller Elementary School band. We all had plots the first year of the Congress Park community garden.

Digging the plots the first year was very difficult. Kieran Reilly and his family found a very big rock in their plot. This year they made it into a stepping stone to stand on and look at the garden. They practiced double digging this year and found it hard not to dig without stepping on the soil previously dug up.

Both Kieran and Asher Hoyt ate several different kinds of produce from their garden last year. Kieran liked the corn and watermelon but his mouth didn't like the summer squash. Asher liked all of the vegetables, particularly the carrots and pumpkins. He didn't enjoy the radishes so much.

Despite drainage problems in his plot, Asher grew regular pumpkins that almost took over the whole garden plot. A fungus got on plants and killed them during the last part of the season but he grew six pumpkins. He named them. The biggest pumpkin was Bob Dylan and the smallest was Jenny. Bob Dylan was featured in a class project. Asher measured Bob's circumference and the distance around the stem. He counted 368 seeds in the pumpkin which he and his family cooked and ate. They made pumpkin pie for his class and he put the steps for making the pie on a poster that included pictures.

Plans for this year's gardens are already under way. Kieran and his family are planting wildflowers, onions, and Forget-Me-Nots. He informed me that the latter are the Alaska state flower. They may plant more things as well. He enjoys planting seeds. Asher's family plans to grow a variety of produce, including striped beets.

Gardens, like children, provide topics of conversation with folks you don't know well. They also are forgiving in a way. There is always the promise of next year. This year has already been a success on many levels. Happy gardening to you.

## Looking East

*Continued from page 12*

Clearly rugby is something that East and the alumni are very proud of.

If this article hasn't convinced you that East High rugby is something to awe at then attend one of their games, talk to some players and you will soon learn that these boys, this team, and these coaches are really something special. As I have always said being involved in school is a beautiful thing — it helps kids find their identity, do better in school, and generally surround themselves with other people who are just as great as they are. So in conclusion, if you are attending East, or planning on attending, consider joining something that you wouldn't normally. You may just end up loving it.

Thanks to all who volunteered to distribute newsletters.

If you want to help, Contact Julie Lang 303-333-7489

# Saucy.



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**Upcoming Events**

*July 3rd* First Annual 12th Ave. children's bike parade and local artists' show Contact Jyll, owner of Under the Umbrella Bakery, [umbrellabakery@yahoo.com](mailto:umbrellabakery@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating or helping with this event.

The Midnight Classic Bike Race is scheduled to go through Congress Park again this year on *July 17, 2010*.

Congress Park's Annual Ice Cream Social is *August 3, 2010*. It will be in Congress Park but we are not sure of the exact location at this time because the City's irrigation project has closed off our traditional Pavilion location. So stayed tuned to your email broadcasts and we will let you know where the Annual Ice Cream Social will be on August 3, 2010 from 6-8 p.m.

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 and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.”

-Tai Shang Kan Ying P’len

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